

PEOPLE OF ANTWERP FLEE UNDER A RAIN OF SHELLS

realization that they were at last safe in England caused such a reaction that many who until then had faced their troubles with stoic calm fainted.

The majority of those whom *The Sun* correspondent saw came by way of Flushing, where it is reported that 40,000 are now awaiting transportation to England. There is no sleeping accommodation of any kind to be had in Rotterdam, to which hundreds of thousands of fugitives from the doomed city would flock.

Not yet can one gather the full details of the horrors of this short siege which seem to equal those of former days, which lasted weeks and even months. For four days the water supply was cut off and there seems to have been little possibility of getting water in any other way than quantities once the municipal supply was gone, even for those with money. It was impossible to get a wash; mineral waters had given out and many sliced their hands in a bottle of cheap wine. The stench in the houses and especially the hotels, where there were many people, was awful. The suffering of children was beyond words to describe. Although others knew better, there were many thousands who placed absolute belief in the impregnability of the city's forts, so they remained until the crash of the tremendous 17-inch German guns shattered their confidence and inspired them with deadly terror.

As each shell struck, causing an instant conflagration, people rushed into the streets in their night clothes or fled into cellars. The terror of the situation was enhanced by the utter darkness of the city save for the awesome flames which followed the bursting of the incendiary shells which the Germans used with constant regularity, punctuating the discharge of the ordinary destructive projectiles.

At daybreak the exodus began. The southern portion of the city near the Royal Museum and the railway station was a mass of flames. Through every safe exit thousands jammed and fought their way out. The majority set out for Holland. Those whom *The Sun's* correspondent met to-night said that no trains were available outside Antwerp, so all save the fortunate few who had bicycles or farm wagons were obliged to walk.

It was an army of misery that walked the twenty-eight miles to safety in Bergen op Zoom. The weaklings fell by the wayside, although frantic terror gave the majority strength. From Bergen op Zoom the flames were visible, mounting high over the city. Antwerp seemed to be entirely in flames.

All the refugees were treated in the kindest way by the Dutch. They were fed and comforted, and splendid arrangements were made to convey thousands to England.

To-night at both Charing Cross and Victoria stations the American committees, which had thought their work about finished, are busy caring for hundreds of Americans of Belgian birth who had been spending their vacation at their old homes. One American, who was drawn to Victoria station out of curiosity, was overcome by the misery of the refugees, and took charge on the spot of half a dozen children who had lost their parents. The committee expects about 100 of these Americans of Belgian birth to-morrow.

Folkstone also was a haven of

refuge for Belgian exiles to-day. Besides the crowds that came via Flushing three boats came from Ostend. The first two vessels carried 3,500 persons, among whom were seventy wounded Belgian gunners and engineers. They were maimed, weary and covered with bandages.

Priest Tells of Siege.

A young Antwerp priest from the south side of the city, which from first to last bore the brunt of the German onslaught, was among those who arrived. He said the first shell fell in the Rue Broderode. He saw the Germans making targets of the Palais de Justice and the Bank of Antwerp near by.

The streets leading to the river, said the priest, were filled with thousands of people. Many of them had tried to get boats the previous days, but there were none leaving. If they asked about making their escape by the railways they were told that the stations were on fire. They seemed to give up hope of getting away and stared resignedly at the terrible shells as they sailed overhead and burst. Some sank in the middle of the river and others appeared to have barely missed the crowd.

"The first we could see," continued the priest, "was a flash on the horizon a long way off. Then after a few seconds there was an explosion. In another instant came a crash, with the roar of a falling building."

"Afterward all this seemed like a perpetual roar, especially when the firing was at its height."

A commercial traveller who arrived at Folkstone said the scene at Antwerp was indescribable. In reply to a question about the cathedral and the Musée Plantin he said:

"From all I could hear they were damaged, but not irretrievably so. The

left in the northern part of the city and I believe they escaped the worst of the attack, but the rest of Antwerp is hell."

FEW TROOPS LEFT.

Garrison Retired to Left Bank of

Scheldt Friday.

By G. F. STEWARD,

Special Correspondent of *The Sun* and the

London "Daily News."

Special Cable Despatch to *The Sun*.

ROTTERDAM, Oct. 10 (Saturday night).

Yesterday morning only a few hundred

troops were left in the city of Antwerp.

The Belgian army had retired to the

left bank of the Scheldt (passage censored).

The heaviest bombardment occurred between 10:30 and 11 o'clock

Thursday morning and Thursday evening, when shells must have been fired at the rate of about twenty a minute.

The din was appalling.

Our men had been fighting con-

tinuously for five days. In the morning the firing continued spasmodically

(passage censored).

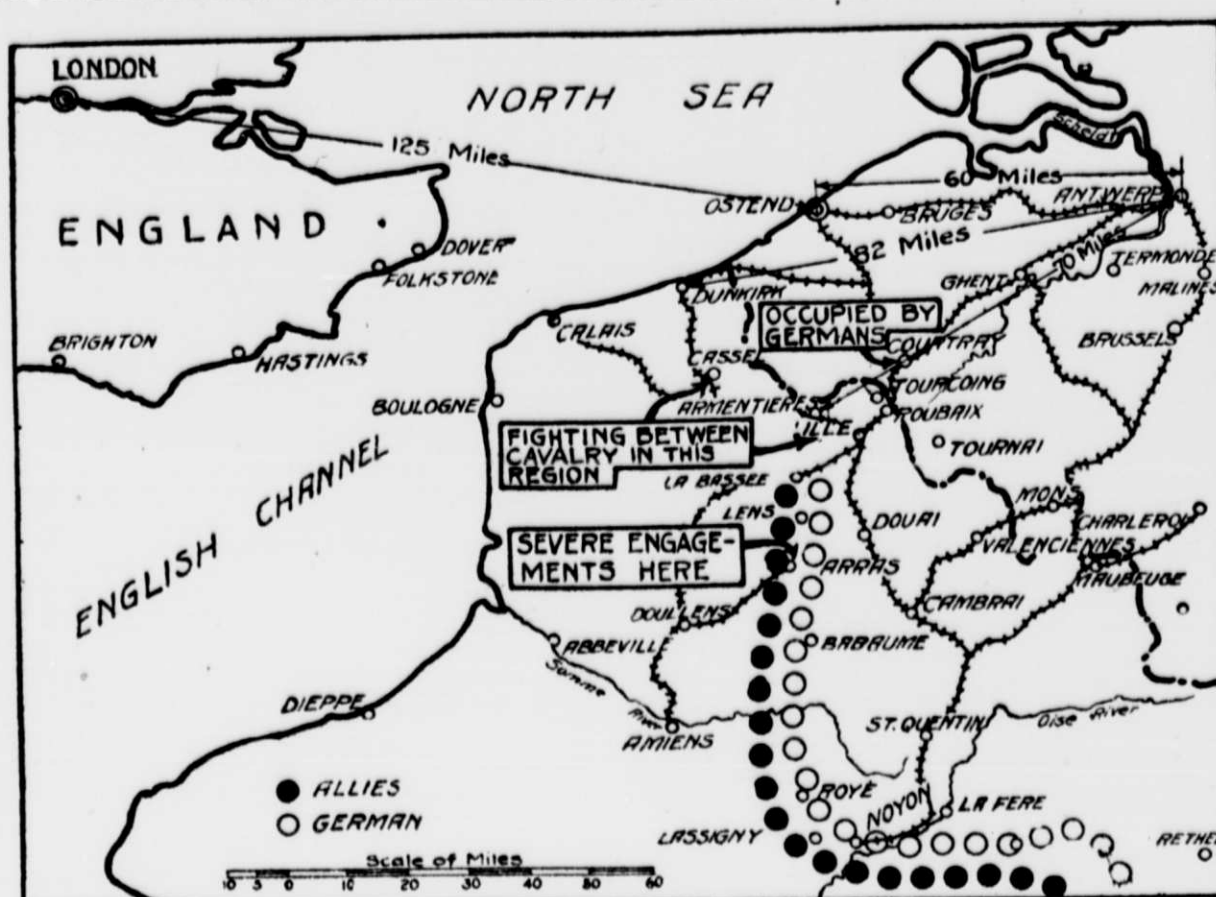
On Thursday the Belgians fired the enormous petroleum tanks on the west

bank of the Scheldt. Enormous clouds of smoke from the tanks completely hid the sun and formed a cloud against the horizon which will last for days. The

Belgians also fired their grain stores and sank a lighter laden with grain in the waterway before leaving.

In the city the damage done by the shell fire has been chiefly to private

houses. About thirty of these had been burned when I left yesterday.



The Belgian army which escaped from Antwerp is in retreat toward Ostend pursued by part of the German besieging force. The distance between Antwerp and Ostend is sixty miles, and it is believed that the purpose of the retreating army is to form a junction with the cavalry of the allies that has been operating in western Belgium, and that has reached as far north as Cassel, about twenty miles from Ostend.

In the capture of Antwerp the Germans removed a menace to their line of communications. It also gives them a base for the operations which it is said the Kaiser

has planned against England, using the ports of Antwerp and Ostend as naval bases. Ostend, as will be seen by the above map, is in a direct line about 125 miles from London, and Antwerp is sixty miles further to the east.

It is reported that the new plan of the Germans upon French territory is to capture and occupy the cities of Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne on the northwestern coast of France and to employ these as the means of cutting off the British communications with France and thus improve the German chances in a second attempt upon Paris and central France.

Belgian retreat. The forts were blown up by their garrisons, while the retreating troops continued a sharp fire.

"There were five engineers and three stokers on the locomotive. When it arrived at one of the warehouses in the harbor they refused to proceed and clambered down. I then saw their object. The gates of the warehouse had been forced and the stores of provisions were at any one's disposal. About thirty people were breaking open the cases and barrels and carrying away what they could. Others began drinking heavily. The shells began to fall nearer and we feared the engineers would get drunk and be unable to return."

"Fortunately we found another locomotive and finally got back with a freight car loaded with barrels and cases."

"I learn that the garrison before leaving spiked the guns. All grain laden boats in the harbor were sunk and the locks blown up."

WYNEGEM FELL FIRST.

Berlin Reports on Antwerp Siege—

German Ships Blown Up.

Special Cable Despatch to *The Sun*.

LONDON, Oct. 10.—An official wireless

despatch from Berlin says: "A division

advanced against Fort Wynegem early on Friday morning. This fort, the first of the inner belt of the Antwerp forts, was destroyed with a few houses."

"Attempts made by the outer forts to stay the advance were defeated and the forts were silenced. The Belgian army withdrew across the Scheldt."

"The *Rheinisch Westphalian Gazette* says that thirty-two merchant steamers, including the North German Lloyd steamship *Gneisenau* and other large liners and twenty Rhine steamers, were blown up in the harbor because Holland refused to allow them to be used to transport fugitives to England."

"It is officially reported from Vienna that the advance of the Austrians has retarded the Russian fruitless efforts in the region of Przemyśl. The fighting was fiercest on Thursday night, but the fire of the Russian artillery against the fortress began to weaken on Friday morning. The Russians then partly withdrew."

"At Lanthou heavy fighting continues. The Russians have been driven from the fortress. In the Carpathians the situation is favorable to the Austrians."

IN TRENCHES 72 HOURS.

Belgians Used Pontoons in Crossing

Scheldt, Then Destroyed Them.

Special Cable Despatch to *The Sun*.

OSTEND, Oct. 9 (Delayed).—The re-

turning of the Belgians and English from the Antwerp intrenchments was accomplished by means of pontoons

across the Scheldt. These were destroyed after the troops had crossed. The Belgians were in the trenches for seventy-two hours.

The Ministry of War estimates the German losses up to Friday at 40,000 out of 125,000 besiegers.

The German infantry advanced in serried masses upon the first line defenses. They were deliberately sacrificed in order to allow the big guns to be placed in position.

FORTS USELESS NOW.

Military Expert Says Modern Artillery Makes Them Untenable.

Special Cable Despatch to *The Sun*.

LONDON, October 10.

The military correspondent of *The Times* draws this lesson from the fall of the Antwerp fortress:

"Permanent forts in an exposed situation stand no chance against modern artillery. If the German forces hold Antwerp and we attack it later the result will be the same."

The *Times* correspondent believes the taking of the city will have little effect on the result of the war. "The city," he says, "even if converted into a German first class fortress, will bring the Germans little advantage, for the Scheldt cannot be used for naval purposes. Germany doubtless hopes to retain Antwerp when peace comes, but there is no chance that the dream will be realized."

One of the results of the taking of the fortress helpful to the German campaign will be the relief of the considerable force which has been used in the investment of the city. These troops, or such of them as are not required to hold the Belgian army, now deprived of its last fortified position, can be added to the hard pressed German right wing. It is estimated that there are at least 400,000 German soldiers in Belgium to-day. The release of a portion of this force so that it may reinforce Von Kluck's wing will be a valuable asset to the Germans.

The British press takes full account of the moral effect of the capture of the city, which the great Napoleon called "an arrow pointing at the heart of England."

'I Am God's Instrument,' Says Kaiser, Russia Hears

Special Cable Despatch to *The Sun*.

PARIS, Oct. 10.—The text of the Kaiser's proclamation to the Army of the East is published in a Warsaw paper. It is dated September 13 and says:

"Remember you are the chosen people. The spirit of the Lord descended on me because I am the Emperor of the Germans. I am the instrument of the Most High. I am His gauntlet and His representative."

"Woe and death to whoever resists my will! Woe and death to those who are the enemies of the German people! They will perish. God requires their destruction. God who by mouth commands you to execute His will."

The Warsaw paper says the text of the proclamation was read to all the soldiers of the German army.

It has been for centuries one of the great seats of Europe, but its value to Germany as a port under present circumstances is problematical.

English opinion is that Germany will not hesitate to use the Scheldt, even if it does flow through neutral Holland, but it is not believed here that the use of the river as a base for operations will have any great value.

The importance placed by the Germans on the taking of the city is indicated by the Berlin *Tagesspiegel*, quoted in a despatch reaching London by way of Amsterdam. The German newspaper says:

"The capture of Antwerp in eleven days carries the germ of the capture of Paris. The fall of this fortress not only means the overthrow of the Belgians, but it is a most serious blow to England. It proves that it is only necessary to break down a large fortress of the most modern type in order to make the remaining part untenable."

GERMANS NOT WANTON.

Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador, who has returned to New York for a short stay at the Ritz-Carlton, said yesterday that he had been asked for no official information of the destruction of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Antwerp, which has recently been reported.

"It seems unnecessary to say," he added, "that the cathedral could have been destroyed as a wanton act. It might have met the fate of the cathedral in Rheims, but it certainly was not destroyed purposely by the Germans, if it has been harmed at all."

"Do you believe the capture of Antwerp by the Germans to be of great importance?" he was asked.

"Naturally," the Ambassador replied, "that goes without saying." He showed plainly by his manner that he was pleased with the latest "coup" of the German forces.

James Speyer, the banker, was in conference with Count von Bernstorff earlier in the day. Asked if the meeting had any significance relative to peace negotiations or a war loan to Germany, the Ambassador answered:

"Yes, I saw Mr. Speyer. He is a very good friend of mine, but our conference," as you call it, was purely in the nature of a personal call."

Mr. Speyer reiterated Count von Bernstorff's sentiments, but made this statement:

"England is the enemy of peace. We will not have peace until a decisive battle is fought. I really believe, however, that the war should be stopped. They have killed enough already."

When Count von Bernstorff's attention was called to an article in yesterday's *SUN* intimating that German agents are still at work on peace plans in this country, and that reports of United States peace moves appear to be annoying British statesmen, the Ambassador said:

"I know nothing whatever of these so-called German agents. If there are any here I certainly have not heard of it. The whole question is absurd. I suppose they will be blaming me next as a German agent."

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Inhabitants Flee Amid Rain of German Shells

Men and Women on Foot, Children in Baby Carriages and Wheelbarrows, Struggle On in Pitiful Flight Into Holland.

REFUGEE TRAIN STRUCK BY ARTILLERY FIRE

Special Cable Despatch to *The Sun*.

LONDON, October 10.

There is some anxiety here concern-

ing the safety of the King and Queen of the Belgians, who remained in Antwerp up to the last moment.

It is now said that Queen Elizabeth has arrived in London from Ostend. King Albert was with his troops on Friday and it is feared he has been wounded. One correspondent tells of seeing him with his arm in a sling.

Every story received here goes to show that the fall of Antwerp was accompanied by the most pitiful scenes that have been witnessed even in this great war. The Rotterdam correspondent of the *Daily Mail*, telegraphing on Friday, says:

"Among the last fugitives to arrive from Antwerp last night was Marshall (a *Daily Mail* photographer). He left Antwerp as the houses were blazing and shells were bursting everywhere."

"The bombardment opened with dramatic suddenness. Midnight had just struck and the empty streets were suddenly alive with people. The cries of children were mingled with the shrill, terrified screams of women. The people flocked panic-stricken in every direction. They had no fixed destination. Their fear was pitiable."

"There was a lull after the first shell. Then a quarter of an hour later the booming of big guns began on a huge scale. Each shot was followed by the weird, long drawn out din of flying projectiles. Then came the final explosion, which was the most fearsome of all."

"Fires started and the sky was vividly lighted up in parts, intensifying the inky darkness of other spots. A hundred yards from the Queen's Hotel in the direction of the pontoon bridge a shell burst in the roadway. Marshall went to fetch his belongings. The bombardment was so fierce that nothing could be accomplished. Continual dashes into cellars were necessary."

"From now until dawn the terrifying bombardment proceeded. There was a respite of two hours from about 7 o'clock, but the firing began again more fiercely than ever about 9 o'clock. Marshall, Jeffries (correspondent of the *Daily Mail*) and the correspondent of the *Times* were advised by the military commandant to leave the city without delay. They abandoned their belongings and proceeded on foot to the Dutch frontier, the last boat having left and other exits from the town being impossible."

"All the while shells were falling,

chiefly around the Palais de Justice, the pontoon bridge and the Gare du Sud. Marshall saw a petroleum tank blazing and the fires were increasing in the town generally. Buildings were being crashed to pieces."

"Londoners in order to visualize the scene in the streets must recall the roads leading to Hampstead Heath on a bank holiday, with the gay crowds become tragic processions, in which cripples were carried and the sick huddled amid thousands of weeping women and children, while some persons pushed barrows. Most of the people were fleeing with merely the clothes they were wearing and many were only half dressed. Servant maids were seen dressed as if they were prepared for their day's work. Several of them who were pushing their mistresses in barrows were tragically adorned with muslin caps."

"Every now and then little groups of weeping women halted to look back at the scene where they had left their husbands, sons and lovers fighting in the trenches. Swift progress was impossible. The crowds were so dense that they moved sometimes like the queue at a theatre. Sewing machines and babies were piled on bicycles and trundled along. Every few minutes fainting women were carried out of the crowd. When revived they continued the march."

"The last trains were about to leave two miles from the town. People were seated on the footboards and the roofs of the cars, on the hat racks and even on top of the tender and engine. Every time a shell whistled overhead a long tremor passed through the crowd. Women clasped their babies tighter in their arms and hurried away from the city of death."

"All day long the people tramped on. The sun poured down, but so great was the dust that the army of people could hardly be seen. When night fell they had not yet reached the Dutch frontier and in the growing darkness the burning town began to glow like some great iron works, over which bursting shells spread thousands of shooting stars. The front of the great exodus was some twenty miles from the last line, and all night long this tragic, defenceless army marched on."

FLEE TO ENGLAND.

Allies' Ministers Join Refugee Movement Out of Antwerp.

PARIS, Oct. 10.—A telegram from Ostend to the *Temps* says the French, Russian and English Ministers left Antwerp Thursday night.

Thousands of refugees from Antwerp are arriving at Ostend and the steamers leaving Ostend for England are crowded.



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SAYS GERMANS AIMED TO TERRORIZE ANTWERP

Special Cable Despatch to *The Sun*.

LONDON, Oct. 11.—The *Times* corre-

spondent at Rotterdam, telegraphing

Saturday, says:

"Everything has been on a terrific

and bewildering scale. The exodus from

Antwerp began very early on Wednesday

day. On Wednesday afternoon and

Thursday morning members of the

Civic Guard went from house to house

telling the inhabitants to flee."

"I walked out along the main road to

the Dutch frontier as far as Wil-

marsson. For a month past the

ground accustomed to the sights of

streams of refugees trailing along all

the roads of Belgium until the queer

illusion has grown up that they are

always the same refugees. They look

so pitifully alike. But all of these scenes

on all the roads for weeks past must

be added together and then multiplied

twentyfold to resemble the spectacle

witnessed along roads to Holland within

the last two days."

"There is hardly any migration in

history, even that of the Israelites or

the Kalmuck Tartars that can be com-

pared to it."

"Two relieving features are the ex-

trême kindness of the Dutch people at

the frontier and the beautiful weather.

These have reduced mortality to a mini-

mum, but nevertheless there have been

terrible scenes. I saw a woman in a

violent stage of scarlet fever being car-

ried in a wheelbarrow. I saw another

trundled in a barrel trying to care for

an infant just born. I saw many aged

and frail persons quite unfit for the

task in the human stream."

15,000 Block Ferry.

"Besides the exodus by roads to Hol-

land I have seen crowds, at least 15,000

persons, blocking the ferry and the pon-

toon for the railway to St. Nicholas and

Ghent. Early on Thursday these had

disappeared. The last trains had gone.

Arrangements had been made for blow-

ing up the pontoon bridge. The city

was now almost empty."

"It was an extraordinary experience to

walk through the deserted streets. All

windows were shuttered. Many places

were littered with debris from the shell

fire. Occasionally I saw figures hurrying

under the shelter of walls while shells

were falling. I saw a corner

knocked off of a house about 100 yards